

HCDistrictclerk.com **TREVILLION, SUZANNE vs. METROPOLITAN LLOYDS** **7/17/2017**
INSURANCE COMPANY OF TEXAS
 Cause: 201738823 CDI: 7 Court: 133

APPEALS

No Appeals found.

COST STATMENTS

No Cost Statments found.

TRANSFERS

No Transfers found.

POST TRIAL WRITS

No Post Trial Writs found.

ABSTRACTS

No Abstracts found.

SETTINGS

No Settings found.

NOTICES

No Notices found.

SUMMARY

CASE DETAILS

File Date	6/9/2017
Case (Cause) Location	Civil Intake 1st Floor
Case (Cause) Status	Active - Civil
Case (Cause) Type	Debt/Contract - Consumer/DTPA
Next/Last Setting Date	N/A
Jury Fee Paid Date	N/A

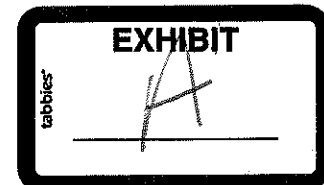
CURRENT PRESIDING JUDGE

Court	133 rd
Address	201 CAROLINE (Floor: 11) HOUSTON, TX 77002 Phone: 7133686200
JudgeName	JACLENEL McFARLAND
Court Type	Civil

ACTIVE PARTIES

Name	Type	Post Jdgm	Attorney
TREVILLION, SUZANNE	PLAINTIFF - CIVIL		CUBBERLY, WALTER
METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE COMPANY OF TEXAS	DEFENDANT - CIVIL		CONDER, DENNIS D.
METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE COMPANY OF TEXAS	REGISTERED AGENT		

1999 BRYAN STREET SUITE 900, DALLAS, TX 75201-3140



INACTIVE PARTIES

No inactive parties found.

JUDGMENT/EVENTS

Date	Description	Order Signed	Post Jdgm	Pgs Volume /Page	Filing Attorney	Person Filing
7/5/2017	ANSWER ORIGINAL PETITION			0	CONDER, DENNIS D.	METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE COMPANY OF TEXAS
6/9/2017	ORIGINAL PETITION			0	CUBBERLY, WALTER	TREVILLION, SUZANNE

SERVICES

Type	Status	Instrument	Person	Requested	Issued	Served	Returned	Received	Tracking	Deliver To
CITATION (CERTIFIED)	SERVICE ISSUED/IN POSSESSION OF SERVING AGENCY	ORIGINAL PETITION	METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE COMPANY OF TEXAS	6/9/2017	6/9/2017			73382565		CVC/CTM SVCE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

DOCUMENTS

Number	Document	Post Jdgm	Date	Pgs
restricted	Defendant Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas' Original Answer		07/05/2017	8
restricted	Certified mail receipt		06/14/2017	1
restricted	Plaintiff's Original Petition		06/09/2017	24
-> restricted	Civil Case Information sheet		06/09/2017	1
-> restricted	Civil Process Request		06/09/2017	2
restricted	Certified Mail Tracking 7016 0600 0001 0815 8270		06/09/2017	2

6/9/2017 3:24:44 PM
Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 17535846
By: Bolante Muraina
Filed: 6/9/2017 3:24:44 PM

2017-38823 / Court: 133

CAUSE NO. _____

SUZANNE TREVILLION,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
vs.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE	§	
COMPANY OF TEXAS,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Suzanne Trevillion ("Ms. Trevillion"), Plaintiff herein, files this Original Petition against Defendant Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas ("Metropolitan") and, in support of her causes of action, would respectfully show the Court the following:

I.
THE PARTIES

1. Suzanne Trevillion is a Texas resident who resides in Harris County, Texas.
2. Metropolitan is an insurance company doing business in the State of Texas which may be served through its registered agent for service of process in the State of Texas, CT Corporation System, via certified mail at 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 900, Dallas, TX 75201-3140.

II.
DISCOVERY

3. This case is intended to be governed by Discovery Level 2.

III.
CLAIM FOR RELIEF

4. The damages sought are within the jurisdictional limits of this court. Plaintiff currently seeks monetary relief over \$100,000, but not more than \$200,000, including damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, and attorney's fees.

IV.
JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This court has subject matter jurisdiction of this cause of action because it involves an amount in controversy in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of this Court. No diversity of citizenship exists in this matter.

6. Venue is proper in Harris County because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in Harris County. TEX. CIV. PRAC & REM CODE § 15.002(a)(1). In particular, the loss at issue occurred in Harris County.

V.
FACTUAL BACKGROUND

7. Ms. Trevillion is a named insured under a property insurance policy issued by Metropolitan.

8. On or about January 2, 2017 a storm hit the Houston, Texas area, damaging Ms. Trevillion's house and other property. Ms. Trevillion subsequently filed a claim on her insurance policy.

9. Defendant improperly denied and/or underpaid the claim.

10. The adjuster assigned to the claim conducted a substandard investigation and inspection of the property, prepared a report that failed to include all of the damages that were observed during the inspection, and undervalued the damages observed during the inspection.

11. This unreasonable investigation led to the underpayment of Plaintiff's claim.

12. Moreover, Metropolitan performed an outcome-oriented investigation of Plaintiff's claim, which resulted in a biased, unfair and inequitable evaluation of Plaintiff's losses on the property.

VI.
CAUSES OF ACTION

13. Each of the foregoing paragraphs is incorporated by reference in the following:

A. Breach of Contract

14. Metropolitan had a contract of insurance with Plaintiff. Metropolitan breached the terms of that contract by wrongfully denying and/or underpaying the claim and Plaintiff was damaged thereby.

B. Prompt Payment of Claims Statute

15. The failure of Metropolitan to pay for the losses and/or to follow the statutory time guidelines for accepting or denying coverage constitutes a violation of Section 542.051 *et seq.* of the Texas Insurance Code.

16. Plaintiff, therefore, in addition to Plaintiff's claim for damages, is entitled to 18% interest and attorneys' fees as set forth in Section 542.060 of the Texas Insurance Code.

C. Bad Faith/Deceptive Trade Practices Act ("DTPA")

17. Defendant is required to comply with Chapter 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

18. Defendant violated Section 541.051 of the Texas Insurance Code by:

(1) making statements misrepresenting the terms and/or benefits of the policy.

19. Defendant violated Section 541.060 by:

(1) misrepresenting to Plaintiff a material fact or policy provision relating to coverage at issue;

- (2) failing to attempt in good faith to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of a claim with respect to which the insurer's liability had become reasonably clear;
- (3) failing to promptly provide to Plaintiff a reasonable explanation of the basis in the policy, in relation to the facts or applicable law, for the insurer's denial of a claim or offer of a compromise settlement of a claim;
- (4) failing within a reasonable time to affirm or deny coverage of a claim to Plaintiff or submit a reservation of rights to Plaintiff; and
- (5) refusing to pay the claim without conducting a reasonable investigation with respect to the claim;

20. Defendant violated Section 541.061 by:

- (1) making an untrue statement of material fact;
- (2) failing to state a material fact necessary to make other statements made not misleading considering the circumstances under which the statements were made;
- (3) making a statement in a manner that would mislead a reasonably prudent person to a false conclusion of a material fact;
- (4) making a material misstatement of law; and
- (5) failing to disclose a matter required by law to be disclosed.

21. At all material times hereto, Plaintiff was a consumer who purchased insurance products and services from Defendant.

22. Defendant has violated the Texas DTPA in the following respects:

- (1) Defendant represented that the agreement confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which it does not have, or involve, or which are prohibited by law;
- (2) Metropolitan failed to disclose information concerning goods or services which was known at the time of the transaction when such failure to disclose such information was intended to induce the consumer into a transaction that the consumer would not have entered into had the information been disclosed;
- (3) Metropolitan, by accepting insurance premiums but refusing without a reasonable basis to pay benefits due and owing, engaged in an unconscionable action or course of action as prohibited by Section 17.50(a)(1)(3) of the DTPA in that Metropolitan took advantage of Plaintiff's lack of knowledge, ability, experience, and capacity to a grossly unfair degree, that also resulted in a gross disparity between the consideration paid in the transaction and the value received, in violation of Chapter 541 of the Texas Insurance Code.

23. Defendant knowingly committed the acts complained of. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to exemplary and/or treble damages pursuant to the DTPA and Texas Insurance Code Section 541.152(a)-(b).

D. Attorneys' Fees

24. Plaintiff engaged the undersigned attorney to prosecute this lawsuit against Defendant and agreed to pay reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses through trial and any appeal.

25. Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable and necessary attorney's fees pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Sections 38.001-38.003 because she is represented by an attorney, presented the claim to Defendant, and Defendant did not tender the just amount owed before the expiration of the 30th day after the claim was presented.

26. Plaintiff further prays that she be awarded all reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in prosecuting her causes of action through trial and any appeal pursuant to Sections 541.152 and 542.060 of the Texas Insurance Code.

VII.
CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

27. All conditions precedent to Plaintiff's right to recover have been fully performed, or have been waived by Defendant.

VIII.
DISCOVERY REQUESTS

28. Pursuant to Rule 194, you are requested to disclose, within fifty (50) days after service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2(a)-(l).

29. You are also requested to respond to the attached interrogatories, requests for production, and requests for admissions within fifty (50) days, in accordance with the instructions stated therein.

IX.
PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Suzanne Trevillion prays that, upon final hearing of the case, she recover all damages from and against Defendant that may reasonably be established by a preponderance of the evidence, and that Ms. Trevillion be awarded attorneys' fees through trial and appeal, costs of court, pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and such

other and further relief, general or special, at law or in equity, to which Ms. Trevillion may show herself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

DALY & BLACK, P.C.

By: /s/ Walt Cubberly
Richard D. Daly
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ecfs@dalyblack.com
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2211 Norfolk St., Suite 800
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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
SUZANNE TREVILLION**

7/5/2017 1:14 PM
Chris Daniel - District Clerk Harris County
Envelope No. 17995630
By: Anna Evetts
Filed: 7/5/2017 1:14 PM

CAUSE NO. 2017-38823

SUZANNE TREVILLION,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	133RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	
METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE	§	
COMPANY OF TEXAS,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

DEFENDANT METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE
COMPANY OF TEXAS' ORIGINAL ANSWER

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas ("Defendant"), and files this Original Answer, and in support thereof would respectfully show this Honorable Court the following:

I. GENERAL DENIAL

Defendant denies all and singular, each and every allegation contained in Plaintiff's Original Petition, and says that the same are not true in whole or in part, and demands strict proof thereof by a preponderance of the evidence.

II. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Pleading in the affirmative, pursuant to Rule 94 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant alleges the following affirmative defenses:

Defendant asserts that any claims for punitive/exemplary damages are governed and limited by Chapter 41 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, including but not limited to, §§ 41.003, 41.004, 41.006, 41.007 and 41.008.

Defendant further asserts that punitive/exemplary damages cannot be sustained because an award of punitive/exemplary damages under Texas law, subject to no predetermined limit such as a maximum multiple of compensatory damages or a maximum amount on the amount of punitive/exemplary damages that may be imposed, would violate Defendant's due process rights guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, would violate Defendant's rights not to be subjected to an excessive fine in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and would be improper under the common law and public policies of the State of Texas, §§ 3 and 19 of the Texas Constitution. In addition, Defendant asserts that any claims of the Plaintiff for punitive/exemplary damages against Defendant should be proved beyond a reasonable doubt under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, as opposed to a mere preponderance of the evidence.

Defendant asserts that punitive/exemplary damages are barred by the due process and excessive fines provisions contained within the United States Constitution and Article I, §§ 3 and 19 of the Texas Constitution.

Defendant also asserts that claims for punitive/exemplary damages against Defendant cannot be sustained because an award of punitive/exemplary damages in this case, combined with any prior, contemporaneous, or subsequent judgment against Defendant for punitive/exemplary damages arising out of Defendant's acts or omissions, would constitute impermissible multiple punishments for the same wrong in violation of Defendant's due process and equal protection rights guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and would constitute double jeopardy in violation of the common law and statutory law of the State of Texas, and Article I, §§ 3 and 19 of the Texas Constitution.

Pleading further, Defendant specifically pleads that Plaintiff is not entitled to recovery of exemplary damages absent a showing of fraud or malice or a willful act or omission of gross neglect on the part of Defendant, pursuant to Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code Ch. 41.

Defendant further alleges all of the terms and provisions of the policy of insurance issued to the Plaintiff by Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas, including but not limited to the following policy provisions:

COVERAGE A - DWELLING

1. **Dwelling Owners.** If **your** dwelling is a one, two, three or four family dwelling, we cover:
 - A. the dwelling owned by **you** on the **residence premises**; and
 - B. structures, equipment and accessories attached to the dwelling. Swimming pools not fully enclosed within the dwelling are covered under **COVERAGE B - PRIVATE STRUCTURES**.

* * *

COVERAGE B - PRIVATE STRUCTURES

At the location of the **residence premises**:

1. we cover private structures owned by **you** and separated from the dwelling by clear space; or

* * *

Structures connected to the dwelling by only a fence, utility line, or similar connection are considered to be private structures

We do not cover private structures:

1. used or held for any **business** or commercial farming purposes; or
2. rented or held for rental to a person not a tenant of the dwelling, unless solely used as a private garage.

This coverage does not apply to land, including land on which the private structures are located, or any costs required to replace, rebuild, stabilize or otherwise restore the land.

* * *

COVERAGE C - PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal Property Covered

We cover personal property owned or used by **you** while it is anywhere in the world.

* * *

CAUSES OF PROPERTY LOSS

SECTION I - LOSSES WE COVER (COMPREHENSIVE PERILS)

LOSS DEDUCTIBLE CLAUSE

We will pay only when a loss exceeds the deductible amount shown in the Declarations.
We will pay only that part of the loss over such stated deductible.

COVERAGE A – DWELLING

COVERAGE B – PRIVATE STRUCTURES

COVERAGE C – PERSONAL PROPERTY

We will pay for sudden and accidental direct physical loss or damage to the property described in Coverages A, B and C, except as excluded in **SECTION I – LOSSES WE DO NOT COVER**.

SECTION I - BROAD NAMED PERILS

Whenever Broad Named Perils is referred to in this policy, the following causes of loss will apply for sudden and accidental direct physical loss.

Under the named perils listed below, we do not cover loss or damage, no matter how caused, to the property which results directly or indirectly from **fungus and mold**. There is no coverage for loss which, in whole or in part, arises out of, is aggravated by, contributed to by acts or omissions of persons, or results from **fungus and mold**. This exclusion applies regardless of whether **fungus and mold** arises from any other cause of loss, including but not limited to a loss involving water, water damage or discharge, which may be otherwise covered by this policy, except as granted under **SECTION I - ADDITIONAL COVERAGES** for Fungus and Mold Remediation.

* * *

2. Windstorm or Hail

We do not pay for loss to the interior of a building or to personal property inside, caused by rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust unless the wind or hail first damages the roof or walls and the wind forces rain, snow, sleet, sand or dust through the opening.

* * *

SECTION I - LOSSES WE DO NOT COVER

* * *

1. We do not insure for loss caused directly or indirectly by any of the following. Such loss is excluded regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any sequence to the loss. These exclusions apply whether or not the loss event results in widespread damage or affects a substantial area.

* * *

- D. **Water damage**, meaning any loss caused by, resulting from, contributed to or aggravated by:

1. flood, surface water, waves, tidal water or overflow of any body of water, or spray from any of these, whether or not driven by wind;
2. water or water-borne material which backs up through sewers or drains, or which overflows or is discharged from a sump pump, sump pump well or other system designed to remove subsurface water which is drained from the foundation area; or
3. water or water-borne material below the surface of the ground, including water which exerts pressure on, or flows, seeps or leaks through any part of a building, sidewalk, foundation, driveway, swimming pool or other structure of water which causes earth movement

This exclusion applies whether or not the water damage is caused by or results from human or animal forces or any act of nature.

However, we pay for direct loss that ensues after water damage if caused by fire, theft or explosion and then we pay for only the ensuing loss.

Water damage to property described in Coverage C away from a premises or location owned, rented, occupied or controlled by **you** is excluded even if weather conditions contribute in any way to produce the loss.

* * *

- H. **Neglect by you** to use all reasonable means to save and preserve property at and after the time of a loss.

* * *

2. We do not insure under Coverage A and Coverage B for any loss consisting of one or more of the items below. However, we pay for any ensuing loss unless the ensuing loss is itself excluded by any other provision in this policy. Further, we do not insure for loss described in Exclusion 1. above and Exclusions 3. and 4. below regardless of whether one or more of the following: (a) directly or indirectly cause, contribute to or aggravate the loss; or (b) occur before, at the same time, or after the loss or any other cause of the loss. The items are:
 - A. conduct, act, failure to act, or decision of any person, group, organization or governmental body;

- B. defective, inadequate, faulty or unsound:
 - 1. planning, zoning, development, surveying, siting;
 - 2. design, specifications, workmanship, repair, construction, renovation, remodeling, grading, compaction;
 - 3. materials used in repair, construction, renovation or remodeling; or
 - 4. maintenance;of any property whether on or off the residence **premises**. Property includes land, structures or improvements of any kind; and
- C. weather conditions.

However, this exclusion only applies if weather conditions contribute in any way with an excluded event or cause of loss to produce the loss.

- 3. We do not cover loss or damage to the property described in Coverage A, Coverage B and Coverage C which results directly or indirectly from any of the following:
 - A. wear and tear, marring, scratching, aging, deterioration, corrosion, rust, mechanical breakdown, latent defect, inherent vice, or any quality in property that causes it to damage or destroy itself;

* * *

We do pay for any direct loss that follows items A. through H. to property described in Coverages A, B and C not otherwise excluded or excepted in this policy and then we pay for only the ensuing loss. If a covered water loss follows, we will pay the cost of tearing out and replacing any part of the building necessary to repair the plumbing or appliance, but we do not cover loss to the plumbing or appliance from which the water escaped.

* * *

Pleading further, Defendant would also assert that Plaintiff has failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the insurance policy issued by Metropolitan Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas to the Plaintiff. Specifically, the subject insurance policy provides as follows:

SECTION I – CONDITIONS

* * *

- 2. **What you Must do After a Loss.** We have no obligations to provide coverage under this policy if you or your representative fail to comply with the following duties and the failure to comply is prejudicial to us:

- A. Promptly notify **us** or **our** representative.
- B. Protect the property from further damage, make reasonable and necessary repairs required to protect the property and keep a record of necessary expenditures.
- C. Cooperate with us in the investigation of a claim.

* * *

- E. At any reasonable time and place **we** designate, and as often as **we** reasonably require:
 - 1. show **us** the damaged property;
 - 2. submit to questions concerning the loss under oath while not in the presence of any other person defined as "**you**", and sign and swear to the answers; and

* * *

- 7. **Appraisal.** If **you** and **we** fail to agree on the amount of loss, either **you** or **we** can make a written demand for an appraisal of the loss. Each party will select a competent appraiser and notify the other within 20 days of the appraiser's identity. The two appraisers will select a competent and impartial umpire. If the two appraisers are unable to select an umpire within 15 days, **you** or **we** can request that the choice of an umpire be made by a judge of a court of record in the state where the **residence premises** is located.

The appraisers will separately set the amount of loss determining the full replacement cost and **actual cash value** for each item as needed. If the appraisers submit a written report of an agreement to **us**, the amount agreed upon will be the amount of the loss. If they fail to agree, they will submit their differences to the umpire. The written award by two of these three people for any item will set the amount of loss and is binding on **you** and **us** when filed with **us**.

You will pay the appraiser selected by **you**. **We** will pay the appraiser selected by **us**. **You** and **we** will split the other expenses of appraisal and the fee of the umpire.

With regard to Appraisal, the term "**you**" applies only to the named insured, including spouse if a resident of the same household.

Pleading further, Plaintiff failed to promptly repair the subject property and based upon information and belief, has not performed necessary repairs to the property.

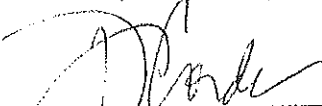
III. JURY DEMAND

Defendant demands trial by jury.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant prays that the Plaintiff take nothing against Defendant, and that Defendant go henceforth without day, with its costs, and for such other and further relief, both at law and in equity, specific and general, to which Defendant may show itself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

STACY | CONDER | ALLEN LLP


By: Dennis D. Conder
State Bar No. 04656400

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(214) 748-1421 FAX
conder@stacyconder.com

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT
METROPOLITAN LLOYDS INSURANCE
COMPANY OF TEXAS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 5th day of July, 2017, a copy of the foregoing was delivered to Plaintiff's counsel of record in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.


Dennis D. Conder

PAN/PLDG/588457.1/001466.17007